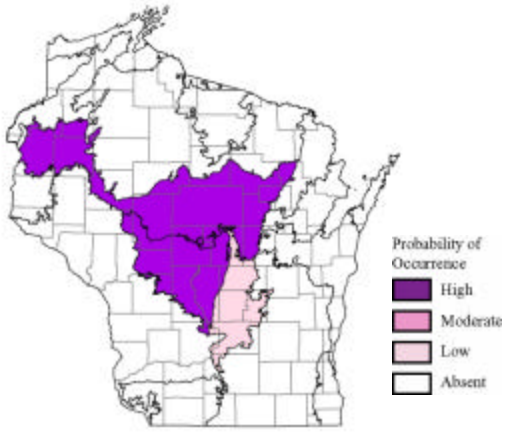
Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)

Species Assessment Scores*

State rarity:	4
State threats:	5
State population trend:	4
Global abundance:	3
Global distribution:	5
Global threats:	4
Global population trend:	5
Mean Risk Score:	4.3
Area of importance:	2

* Please see the Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries (Section 3.1.1) for definitions of criteria and scores.



Ecological Landscape Associations
Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

Ecological Landscape	Community
Central Sand Hills	Wet-mesic prairie
Central Sand Plains	Dry prairie
Central Sand Plains	Dry-mesic prairie
Central Sand Plains	Mesic prairie
Central Sand Plains	Northern sedge meadow
Central Sand Plains	Sand prairie
Central Sand Plains	Shrub-carr
Central Sand Plains	Southern sedge meadow
Central Sand Plains	Surrogate grasslands
Central Sand Plains	Wet-mesic prairie
Forest Transition	Northern sedge meadow
Forest Transition	Surrogate grasslands

Threats and Issues

- Succession of preferred habitats to shrubland and woodland, due to lack of fire or other management to supress woody growth.
- Intensification of agriculture, including conversion of grassland to row crops, tree plantations, or cranberry bogs.
- Loss of grassland habitat due to development.
- Disturbance of grassland nesting cover during the breeding season.
- Habitat fragmentation is an issue for this area-sensitive species, which requires large blocks of grassland in an open, treeless landscape of at least 10,000 acres.
- Heavy grazing and over grazing reduce habitat quality for this species.
- Aggressive invasive forbs, including yellow parsnip, crown vetch, leafy spurge, thistles, reed canary grass, and some goldenrods can degrade habitat quality of grasslands for this species.

- Agricultural pesticides may pose a threat.
- Utility lines and wire fences are a known mortality factor for this species.
- Low genetic diversity has been documented, which may negatively affect the species' reproductive parameters. Loss of genetic diversity is exacerbated by isolation of sub-populations due to negative land use changes.

Priority Conservation Actions

- Continue agricultural set-aside programs, especially those that allow for permanent protection of preferred habitats.
- Work with planning and zoning authorities to protect valuable open grassland/barrens landscapes from being converted to urban or suburban development.
- Provide incentives for delaying hay harvest until after the breeding season.
- Partnerships are key for working to benefit this species in working agricultural landscapes.
- Restore genetic diversity by re-connecting sub-populations and translocating birds from out of state.